

The Southeast News

VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 10

AUGUST 1965

United Church Fifth General Synod Takes Important Actions For Future



DR. HOLLIS F. PRICE

The Fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ re-elected Dr. Ben M. Herbster president for another four-year term of office. Also re-elected were Dr. Fred S. Buschmeyer, secretary, and Charles H. Lockyear, treasurer. All three were returned to office without opposition and by unanimous vote.

Dr. Hollis F. Price, president of LeMoyne College in Memphis, Tennessee, was elected to serve a two-year term as moderator of the denomination.

Dr. Price, who was unopposed, is the first Negro to hold the position of national moderator, the highest honorary office of the denomination.

On January 1, 1966, as a member of First Congregational Church, Memphis, Dr. Price will become a member of the Southeast Convention and the new Southeast Conference. This is a distinct honor to the convention and conference to have the national moder-

ator chosen from its membership.

Recognizing the need for new and vigorous mission outreach through its instrumentalities, the synod voted the program BREAKTHROUGH, which calls for an increase of \$1,000,000 in the basic support given to the national instrumentalities in each of the two years 1966 and 1967. By 1970 the basic support in Our Christian World Mission for the national boards and agencies should reach \$15,000,000.

The synod voted authorization for a committee on structure to study the overall organization of the denomination and to make recommendations for the future to the next General Synod.

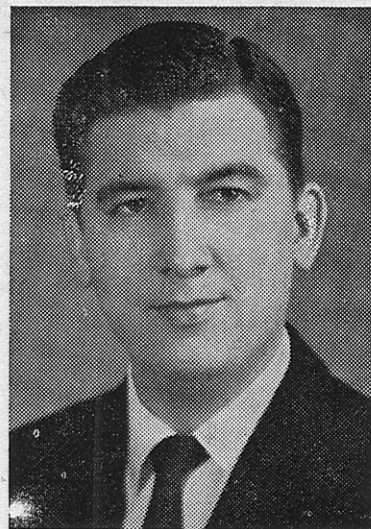
The synod established an Historical Commission to act in behalf of the similar organizations of the E&R and CC Churches.

The synod affirmed its action of 1963 to maintain headquarters in New York City and directed the instrumentalities which have not done so to move their headquarters to New York City in locations convenient to one another for efficient operation.

In another action the United Church representatives to the Consultation of Church Union were authorized to join with representatives from the Methodist, Episcopal, United Presbyterian, Disciples of Christ, and Evangelical United Brethren denominations in drawing up a Plan of Union. This vote in no way binds the denomination and the local churches to the acceptance of such a plan. In the event of future unions, each local church will have the right to decide for itself whether it will participate.

The Committee for Racial Justice Now was continued for another two years. The synod called on its boards, the conferences, associations, and churches to employ personnel without respect to race. It also voted to work to remove laws that discriminate a-

(Continued on Page 2)



Rev. Allen B. Hollis, Jr.
New Langdale Minister

The Reverend Allen B. Hollis, Jr. was installed as pastor of the Langdale Congregational Christian Church on Sunday, July 18.

A former missionary to Israel for the Church of the Nazarene, Mr. Hollis accepted the call to the Langdale Church and now is a ministerial member of the United Church of Christ with his standing in the East Alabama Association.

Mr. Hollis was born in Tallassee, Alabama, but was reared in Lanett. He graduated from Lanett High School as class valedictorian in 1952. After graduating from Trevecca College, Nashville, in 1957, he attended Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., and graduated in 1960.

The Rev. Mr. Hollis served churches in Sedalia, Mo., and Marmet, West Virginia prior to going to the mission field.

In 1954 he married Miss Gloria June Corey of Parkersburg, West Virginia. The couple has three children: Teresa June, Tamara Lynn, and Tonya Suzanne.

The service of installation was followed by a reception in the Langdale parsonage.

1965 Youth Forum Takes Christian Ethics Topic

The Rev. William R. Winterbottom, Crossville, Tenn., chairman of the Youth Committee of the Southeast Convention, Jane Maddox, Langdale, Ala., vice-president of the SEC Pilgrim Fellowship, and Kibbie Simmon, Atlanta, Ga., corresponding secretary of the SEC-PF, attended the 1965 United Church Youth Forum at Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Ill., June 23-29.

The meeting, to which youth and adult advisors from all the conferences of the United Church are invited, is sponsored by the Division of Christian Education of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. The Rev. Scott S. Libbey, chairman of the Board's Youth Ministry Staff, directed the forum.

The week's activities included talks on the "old morality" versus the "new", buzz groups on subjects ranging from advertising to birth control; trips to Chicago to visit both traditional and experimental church projects; and talks by and discussions with a variety of interesting people.

The theme for the week's activities was "Youth and Ethics — the Revolution in Morals."

At the end of the week the teenagers were asked to prepare a workable code of ethics for today by which they and others could live.

"Our intent," said Mr. Libbey, "was to provide a frame of reference for study of the moral climate of our society today — how it got that way, what the Christian stance toward it should be, and what church and public resources are available to help young people live constructively in this society; not as it should be, not as it might be, but as it is."

In addition to religious leaders, such as the Roman Catholic writer, Michael Novak, Rev. Dr. James Daane, assistant editor of *CHRISTIANITY TODAY*, and Rev. Dr. Joseph Fletcher, professor of ethics at Episcopal Theological Seminary, Cambridge, Mass., the young people also heard a representative from *PLAYBOY* magazine.

Daily Bible study sessions were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Paul Hammer, professor of Biblical theology at United Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, Minn.

Rev. Dr. Gabriel J. Fackre, professor of theology and ethics at Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,

United Church Board, Homeland Ministries Directs Variety Of Programs And Activities

The United Church Board of Homeland Ministries represents all members of the United Church of Christ in furthering the Christian Mission in the United States and its possessions.

The Board continues the work of ten historic societies from the Evangelical and Reformed and Congregational Christian tradition for which it acts as attorney and agent. A portion of its program is given to it by the history of these organizations and by the obligation to administer the incomes from endowments for the purposes for which these funds were given, such as the support and strengthening of a group of notable colleges founded and sustained by the American Missionary Association.

The work which the Board undertakes is, in the eyes of its Directors, a mandate laid upon it by the gospel.

The Board provides for the congregations of the United Church of Christ a number of essential services which few, if any, local churches can provide for themselves. The places of maximum need do not usually coincide with the places of maximum resource. The Board exists to equalize this imbalance. The Board is a means by which the vision of the mission is shared and enlarged, transmitting and coordinating the best thinking on the problems of our day.

Certain tasks obviously belong to an instrumentality of the denomination as a whole, such as the preparation and publication of curriculum materials for use in church schools; the administration of a revolving loan fund for use in the building of churches and parsonages; the support of a Christian ministry to students and faculties on the campuses of our colleges and universities.

The Board makes available to conferences and local churches the services of experts in such fields as the urban church, the town and country church, research, race relations, leadership training for work with various age groups in church schools and youth organizations and in evangelism.

A denomination that can face the future with confidence and with a rel-

gave three talks during the week on developing a contemporary code of ethics, the history of ethics and the factors that have influenced it.

evant mission must have the means of undertaking pilot projects and experimental enterprises that keep the church moving in accord with the issues of modern life. The Board plans and aids a denomination-wide program of church extension based on a continuing study of population movements and community changes. It expresses the concern of the church for disadvantaged groups and individuals in American society. It concentrates constructive Christian effort on the development of new forms of ministry. It attempts to focus the influence of the church upon certain decisive power centers in American life.

HOW IS THE BOARD ORGANIZED

The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries is composed of two hundred and twenty-five corporate members, elected by the General Synod of the United Church, and meets annually to review the work of the Board.

The Corporate members elect fifty of their own members to serve as a Board of Directors, which meets three times each year. The Board of Directors is composed of 1/3 women, 1/3 laymen, 1/3 ministers.

The general officers of the Board include the Executive Vice-President, the Treasurer, and the General Secretaries.

Each General Secretary is responsible for the program of a division.

The divisions are:

Division of Christian Education

Division of Church Extension

Division of Evangelism

Division of Health and Welfare Services

Division of Higher Education and the American Missionary Association

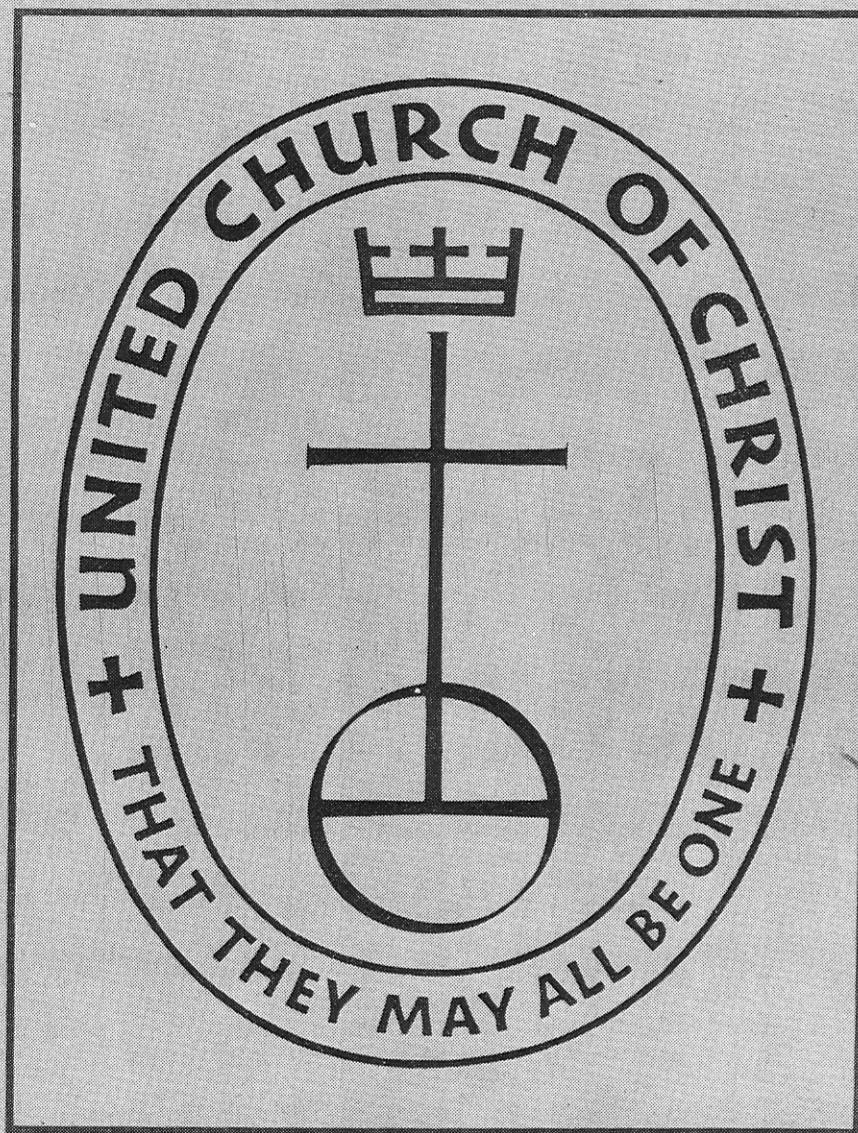
Division of Publication

(Continued from Page 1)

gainst minorities, including marriage laws.

The synod called for an all-out attack on poverty and for the formation of a task force to develop and coordinate needed programs. The current denominational emphasis on "The Church and Urbanization" will be continued in 1966-67. "The Missionary Role of the Parish Church" was adopted as the 1968-69 emphasis.

DESK CALENDAR AND PLAN BOOK



✻ 1965-1966 ✻

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Second-class Postage Paid at
Atlanta, Georgia

Published monthly by and for
the churches of the

SOUTHEAST CONVENTION
of Congregational Christian Churches
(The United Church of Christ)

673 Piedmont Avenue N. E.

Atlanta, Ga.

TRinity 4-2558

Single Subscription \$1.50 per year

Group Subscription \$1.00 per year

STAFF

Rev. Jas. H. Lightbourne, Jr.

Editor

Printed by The Roanoke Leader,
Roanoke, Alabama

Vol. XIII, August 1965 No. 10

Superintendent's Corner

Before election as superintendent of the Southeast Convention I had attended just one of the national meetings of our denomination — the 1954 General Council in New Haven. Since becoming superintendent I have attended the General Synods of the United Church in 1957, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1963, and 1965, as well as meetings of the General Council of CC Churches in 1958 and 1961.

On the basis of this it seems fair to say that I have a fair amount of experience with such meetings. Through the years several observations have been made that interest me and may interest you.

During the course of a General Synod the delegates will hear a considerable amount of debate on a variety of subjects. At times the debate is lively and exciting — and many times quite important.

As a rule, during the whole of the synod, about 20-25 people will do 75% or more of the speaking from the floor. Some of these are helpful. Others are of the opinion they are being helpful but it is highly possible they represent a minority opinion in this regard. Others become a nuisance.

In time the delegates recognize these frequent speakers and the category to which they belong. They greet them accordingly — with respect, humor, patience and with combinations of these. After a while those who have become a nuisance are greeted with groans — especially if debate has been long or the hour is late. I have not found this has any particular effect on them.

In closing let me state I have found

Important Resources Ready For Churches

Two new resources are available from the Stewardship Council of the United Church. The first is the 1965-66 edition of the **United Church Desk Calendar and Plan Book**.

This popular planning guide is used by more than twenty thousand pastors and lay leaders in the United Church. It provides, in easy to find form, the program planning suggestions of all national boards and councils, together with calendar pages for eighteen months (July 1965 through December 1966), and a directory of national instrumentalities. Sample copies have been sent all local pastors and conference staff persons. Additional copies are priced at one dollar each.

Churches and ministers wishing to order additional copies should send their orders to:

Stewardship Council
United Church of Christ
1505 Race Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19102

Remember, the price is \$1.00 per copy. This is a useful tool. More and more of the churches of the convention are making use of it in their planning.

Acting on Mission by Reverend George J. Warheit of Columbus, Ohio, is an exciting new guide to work and witness in the local church.

It is a very practical manual which suggests a three-step approach to church program planning.

First, involve your entire membership in a study of the nature and mission of the church.

Second, evaluate the present structures and program patterns of your congregation.

Third, reform these structures and renew these patterns in response to

the lay and ministerial delegates to be faithful and wise. They take their task seriously and discharge it to the best of their abilities.

When one considers the number and length of the business sessions, and adds to them the number and length of the inspirational sessions, the delegates are to be commended for their faithfulness in attendance.

I always leave such meetings with the feeling that our common concerns are in good hands when placed before these elected delegates for their study, judgment, and action.

HERE AND THERE NEWS IN BRIEF

Laity Sunday

October 10, 1965 has been designated Laity Sunday in the United Church of Christ.

The Council for Lay Life and Work recommends calling October 10 Laity Sunday and the participation of men, women, and youth in the Laity Service.

A brochure suggesting themes and materials for the service is available free from the

Council for Lay Life and Work
297 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10010

The churches of the convention are urged to observe Laity Sunday.

* * * *

Michael Anthony Kennedy

Readers of The Southeast News will recall the article in the March 1965 issue about Mr. and Mrs. George Kennedy of Deer Lodge, Tenn. Mrs. Kennedy had polio when she was ten years old. As a result of the crippling effects of the disease she has spent years in a wheel chair.

The article indicated the Kennedys were expecting a baby this summer. We share their joy in announcing the birth of their son, Michael Anthony Kennedy on July 30. He weighed seven pounds and four ounces at birth. At last report both mother and son were doing fine — and so was the proud father!

God's clear call to mission.

This booklet was written at the specific request of the Committee on Program Strategy of the United Church of Christ. It represents a coordinated approach to such areas as: worship, education, evangelism, service, ministry, and stewardship — all within the context of the community in which the church exists and which it must serve.

The author brings to his task a broad background of experience in the United Church. As a local pastor and as a member of a conference staff he has carried responsibility for helping churches in this important area.

Plan now to read **Acting on Mission**. And plan to use it in your church. A sample copy was included in the **Spring Packet** which was sent to all pastors by the Stewardship Council.

Additional copies may be secured from the Stewardship Council. The price is fifty cents each.



MISS JUDY KELL

North Alabama Youth Fellowship Has Rally

The North Alabama Youth Fellowship met on June 6th at Mt. Lebanon on beautiful Chandler's Mountain.

The opening devotional was brought by the Youth Fellowship of the host church. The guests were welcomed by the president of the host church, Judy Kell, and the host pastor, Rev. Homer Barnes. The response was given by Jack Werkau, vice-president, who presided in the absence of the president, Charles Plosser.

The fellowship was well attended. There were 86 persons present. In addition to the host church the following churches were represented:

The St. John's Church, Birmingham; St. John's Church, Cullman; Pilgrim Church, Birmingham; First Church, Caddo; Robertson's Chapel; United Church, Huntsville; Jones Chapel, Moulton; Mountain Grove, Hanceville.

We were especially happy to have our superintendent, Brother James H. Lightbourne, Jr., who is universally respected and loved, present.

A wonderful and inspiring message was brought from the 23rd Psalm by Rev. George C. Hewson of St. John's United Church, Birmingham. It was enjoyed by adults and young people alike.

After a wonderful picnic supper served by the host church, the follow-

Huntsville Scouts Earn God And Country Award

It was an important occasion in the life of United Church of Huntsville when two of our boys received their "God and Country Award", an award earned by a year's study and service to their church under the supervision of their minister. Among the areas of study were Christian Faith, Christian Witness, Christian Outreach, Christian Fellowship and Christian Citizenship. These boys had to learn the history of their local church and become well versed in the history of the denomination. They had to be able to talk intelligently about the ecumenical movement, relate in good detail the worldwide mission of the United Church and how it cooperates with others in the mission. They prepared a map of the United States, showing all the educational and benevolent institutions, their location and function. A world map was used to identify all the mission stations around the world and the kind of ministries they perform.

Service to the local church was an important aspect of the program. One of the boys, Gene Pline, served for a year as acolyte. He also saw to it that the chancel was prepared with the correct articles for worship and that the sanctuary was in order following the service. Jack Werkau presented the "Moments of Concern" in the worship services and cared for the grounds during the summer months.

As their minister, I think the most important result of our work together was in the establishment of a close, informal relationship which broke down the barriers often existing between minister and layman. It is one of the most rewarding programs I have fol-

lowed through in the area of Youth Ministry.

Both boys were presented for their award by their respective Scoutmasters, while the troops to which they belonged participated in the service. After their mothers pinned the "God and Country" medal on them, they in turn pinned a miniature on the mothers and fathers.

The "God and Country" program of the Boy Scouts of America is one worthy of all our churches' participation.

W. Raymond Berry,
Minister

ing officers were elected:
New President: Judy Kell of Mt. Lebanon Church, Steele;
Re-elected as Vice-President: Jack Werkau of the United Church, Huntsville;
Secretary-Treasurer: Kolene Butler, St. John's Church, Cullman.
Elected to replace Brother Al Henry, whom we all missed very much, as adult advisor was Fred Shelton of Southern Union College and First Church, Caddo.

After some fine singing and a closing devotional by the Youth Fellowship of Robertson's Chapel, Rev. Lightbourne installed the new officers and pronounced the benediction.

HERE AND THERE NEWS IN BRIEF

Oak Grove Church

The Oak Grove Church, Pine Mountain, Ga., held its Daily Vacation Bible School the week of June 7-13. There were 57 children enrolled and 50 had perfect attendance. The Senior Class was the only one having perfect attendance for the week.

The annual homecoming was held on July 18 and the annual revival services during the following week. Rev. Karlton C. Johnson, Regional Secretary for the Stewardship Council, was the guest speaker.

Rev. John E. Rhodes is the pastor of the church.

* * * *

Rev. and Mrs. Arnold Slater

Rev. and Mrs. Arnold Slater attended the Ministers' Family Conference, Estes Park, Colorado, July 28-August 3. Mr. Slater served as dean of the conference, which is sponsored by the United Church. The Slaters will visit their daughter and son-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Odum, in Ft. Collins, Colorado.

Both boys were presented for their award by their respective Scoutmasters, while the troops to which they belonged participated in the service. After their mothers pinned the "God and Country" medal on them, they in turn pinned a miniature on the mothers and fathers.

The "God and Country" program of the Boy Scouts of America is one worthy of all our churches' participation.

W. Raymond Berry,
Minister



L to R: Gene Pline and Jack Werkau

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS
673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 8, Georgia

Second Class Postage Paid
at Atlanta, Georgia

acting on mission

A Guide to Work and Witness in the Local Church

